

Claims

- 5 1. A method of dispensing a plurality of treating compositions into a multistage automatic washing machine comprising operating a cartridge in the machine, the cartridge comprising at least two chambers, each chamber containing a treating composition, wherein the chambers are activated in a manner such that only one chamber is activated and one treating composition, is dosed during each stage of the washing
- 10 cycle.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of cartridges are provided within the automatic washing machine.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the chambers of the cartridge contain a plurality of treating compositions.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the chambers of the cartridge contain a plurality of treating compositions.
- 20 5. The method of claim 3, wherein each treating composition differs from the other treating compositions.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein each treating composition differs from the other
- 25 treating compositions.
7. 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the cartridge comprises 4 chambers.
8. 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for
- 30 activation in a pre-rinse segment, which contains an enzymatic detergent treating composition.

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9. ~~7.~~ The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for activation in a wash segment, which contains a hypohalite/peroxygen detergent treating composition.
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10. ~~8.~~ The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for activation in a rinse segment, which contains a rinse agent treating composition.
11. ~~9.~~ The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for activation in a treatment segment, which contains an anti-lime agent or a water treatment agent treating composition.
12. ~~10.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein in operation the cartridge interacts with a sensor within the automatic washing machine, the sensor sensing a parameter of the automatic washing machine wash liquor and conveying the parameter back to the cartridge, influencing the operation of a cartridge chamber.
13. ~~11.~~ The method of claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the hardness of the water in the automatic washing machine wash liquor.
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14. ~~12.~~ The method of claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the soil loading of the water in the automatic dishwasher machine wash liquor.
15. ~~13.~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the amount to which the automatic washing machine has been loaded with house ware to be washed.
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16. ~~14.~~ The method of claim 5, wherein in operation the cartridge interacts with a sensor within the automatic washing machine, the sensor sensing a parameter of the automatic washing machine wash liquor and conveying the parameter back to the cartridge, influencing the operation of a cartridge chamber.
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- 1 ~~15.~~ The method of claim 14, wherein the sensor senses the hardness of the water in the automatic washing machine wash liquor.
18. ~~16.~~ The method of claim 14, wherein the sensor senses the soil loading of the water in the automatic dishwasher machine wash liquor.
19. ~~17.~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein the sensor senses the amount to which the automatic washing machine has been loaded with house ware to be washed.
- 10 ~~18.~~<sup>20.</sup> The method of claim 1, wherein the automatic washing machine is an automatic dishwashing machine.